

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02294 220912Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, OVIP (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)
SUBJECT: HOLBROOKE CALL ON PREMIER

REF: CODEL WOLFF CALL REPORT

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY RECORD OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN ASSISTANT
SECRETAR HOLBROOKE AND PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO DURING THE
CALL HOLBROOKE AND CODEL WOLFF MADE ON PREMIER APRIL 20.

1. HOLBROOKE SAID HIS VISIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH CODEL WOLFF
WAS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GREATER EXECUTIVE/CONGRESSIONAL
COOPERATION WHICH HE HOPED WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION.

2. ASKED BY THE PREMIER FOR HIS COMMENTS, HOLBROOKE SAID
HE WOULD LIKE O MENTION SOME SPECIFIC AND SOME GENERAL
ISSUES. SPECIFICALLY, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MADE HIS
DECISION ON THE FOOTWEAR ISSUE IN THE HOPE THAT
ORDERLY MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT.
US/ROC NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BEGIN IN
EARLY MAY. IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED, THE
CONSEQUENCE WILL BE BAD FOR BOTH SIDES. (CONGRESSMAN
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WOLFF AGREED, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF
PROTECTIONIST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE ABLE TO USE
THE FOOTWEAR ISSUE TO OBTAIN THE ADOPTION OF RESTRICTIVE
US TRADE POLICIES.) THE EARLY INDICATIONS THAT THE
GROC WILL SUPPORT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE WELCOME, SAID
HOLBROOKE.

3. TURNING TO THE GENERAL ISSUE OF US/ROC RELATIONS, HOLBROOKE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR WORLD PEACE. THE US HAD LOST ITS WAY IN RECENT YEARS, BUT ITS STRENGTH WILL BE RESTORED BY RENEWED CONFIDENCE OF AMERICANS IN THEMSELVES. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ASK FOR SACRIFICE AND SUPPORT AT HOME, AND ABROAD IN AREAS SUCH AS NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. THE US WILL REMAIN INTERESTED IN THE PACIFIC AREA.

4. WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, CONTINUED HOLBROOKE, THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE US SHOULD MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET ON THE TIMING OR MODALITIES OF NORMALIZATION, BUT THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED AT ALL TIMES WITH THE FUTURE STATUS OF TAIWAN. US TALKS WITH THE PRC LATER THIS YEAR SHOULD CLARIFY THE ISSUES. THE GROC WILL BE CONSULTED ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING IT AND THE US WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE ROC. HOLBROOKE ASSURED THE PREMIER THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND HE (HOLBROOKE) WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO AMBASSADOR SHEN; AND ONE OF AMERICA'S SENIOR DIPLOMATS IS AMBASSADOR IN TAIPEI. CONCERN FOR THE GROC IS CONTINUALLY BORNE IN MIND AS THE US MOVES FORWARD TOWARD NORMALIZATION.

5. THE PREMIER DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO HOLBROOKE'S REMARKS, BUT IN REFERRING TO HIS RECENT EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, HE REEMPHASIZED THE GROC'S COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TWARD THE US AND ALLUDED CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAIN TO THE GROC'S BASIC POLICIES (SEE REFTEL). THE BEST WAY TO MAINTAIN US INTERESTS IN EAST ASIA, ASSERTED THE PREMIER, IS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO: OTHERWISE, INSTABILITY WILL RESULT. AS THE US CONSIDERS ITS CHINA POLICY, IT SHOULD VIEW THE ROC AS AN ASSET WHICH SUPPORTS THE US MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. THE PREMIER AGREED WITH HOLBROOKE ON THE NEED FOR MORE CONSULTATIONS. AS FOR FOOTWEAR, THE PREMIER STATED THAT THE ROC WILL TRY ITS BEST TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. PREVIOUS ROC/US TRADE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH SINCERE CONSULTATIONS, AND THE PREMIER WAS CONFIDENT THE FOOTWEAR ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED IN SIMILAR FASHION. UNGER

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